



ZELIENOPLE NEWS

Summer 2022

Borough of Zelienople

Volume 8

Borough of Zelienople · 111 West New Castle Street · Zelienople, PA 16063 · www.zelieboro.org · (724) 452-6610

Message from the Manager

By Don Pepe, Borough Manager

Hi all,

There are a few things I need to bring to your attention.

Main Street:

First, what is happening or not happening on Main Street Phase II. We are waiting for the contractor to be back in town to begin the pulling of underground wires and to address the individual property electric service installations. Problem has been a supply chain one in getting materials especially the transformers.

We are working with them to get these supplies as soon as possible so they can begin again. This includes finishing the construction aspect of the

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contract as well. We are very sorry for the delay, but it has been a struggle to be sure and we have not let up on the efforts to have it completed.

Please see *Manager Message* on page 2

Stormwater Management and Flood Control

By Don Pepe, Borough Manager

Stormwater and flooding are two things that many of us fear a great deal. After the tremendous flooding we had in 2018 and 2019 the Borough, along with neighboring municipalities and Butler County, have been working together to plan for stormwater management and as well as specific projects designed to help mitigate flooding in the area.

A regional stormwater group consisting of 9 municipalities in this Butler County region has been meeting regularly to continue planning projects and funding for needed stormwater management projects in this region. Specifically, Harmony and Zelienople Boroughs as well as Jackson and Lancaster Townships are collaborating closely to find ways to control flooding and manage this problem in a way that will be effective and long lasting.



Stay tuned in to what we are doing and as we progress and we will keep you informed. I am excited about the opportunities we have to make a real difference in handling this long-standing flooding problem.

Manager Message from page 1

Main Street Phase III from New Castle Street to the bridge is almost ready to be put out to bid. We are waiting on approvals from PennDOT, and we will be ready to go. The 4-corner park design is also being prepared in conjunction with our civic groups and we hope to have that ready for review soon as well. I am excited to see what we can do with what has become a town center for Zelie.

Parks and Recreation:

We have created a new Parks and Recreation department and staffed it with good people. I am excited to say that the future of our Parks and Recreation program will be a real boost to our residents of all ages. There are other articles on this in this issue.

Paving and Curbing:

You may have noted that we are redoing curbing along streets to complete that section of town. We do a portion of Zelienople every year to ensure that that infrastructure is maintained. Also, paving will begin soon as well of the streets we have determined need

it the most. We will keep you informed of those details through public notices.

Traffic safety:

This is a serious item I want to bring to your attention. There is a lot of heavy traffic on our streets for several reasons. Zelienople is the center of major state and local roads which brings in a lot of vehicles from outside of town as they go from one place to another in the region. This adds to the traffic that already exists within the borough. We have and will continue to try to make each roadway safe for our residents and we ask all people to drive safely and within the speed limits. Our residents and our visitors, especially children and elderly, need to be watched out for so please drive as if their lives depend on it. Because it does.

If there is anything we can do for you or if you have a question, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In the meantime, have a safe and enjoyable summer. You deserve it.

Swift 911 Email Notifications

The Borough has noticed that some Swift 911 email notices are not reaching our registered users. This is due to security updates some email carriers have undergone. If you are not receiving our emails, please "whitelist" or add email address zelieharmonyalerts@zoominternet.net to your "safe sender list" to allow our email notices to safely come into your inbox. If you are unsure of how to add an email address to a safe sender list, please contact your email administrator.

The Borough is making an effort to send out non-emergency notifications via email to reduce the number of phone calls our users receive. Therefore, it is important that you are receiving our emails. If you wish to update your contact information in the Swift911 system, please contact the Police Department at (724) 452-3003 ext. 0, or by emailing zelieharmonyalerts@zoominternet.net.



Head to Glade Run's Third Annual Family Food Truck Festival on August 13 from 11am to 3pm on the Zelienople campus to sample some of Pittsburgh's best food trucks. The event also features a car cruise, cornhole tournament (register by August 11), music, and raffles.

Proceeds benefit individuals served through mental health programs at Glade Run. For more info, visit <https://gladerun.org> or call Glade Run Foundation at (724) 452-4453, ext. 1277.

Message from the Parks & Recreation Director

By Jason Mentel, Director of Parks & Recreation



Hello Zelienople Borough! My name is Jason Mentel, and I am the new Parks and Recreation Director. For the last 20 years, I have worked for Cranberry Township in their Parks and

Recreation Department, and I am excited about all the exciting opportunities here in the Borough. My focus is bringing community engagement and activities to Zelienople.

Over the last few months, I have gotten to experience the sense of community within Zelienople and especially at the parks. I love seeing the playground being utilized, kids having fun on the skate park, families and friends gathering in the shelters, and our community enjoying the pool. I enjoy talking to the patrons and learning the history of the park and of the town itself.

There will be a few changes implemented through the Parks and Recreation Department that will enable the Borough to serve the community more efficiently. We will be using a software program called Civic Rec,

which will allow you to purchase a pool pass, reserve a shelter, or register for a program easily. We will be offering early discounts for pool memberships, which is a great way to save money, or to purchase as a gift for the holidays!

During the summer of 2023, we will be looking at increasing the pool member benefits, including members only swim times and early entry to the pool. I am always open to suggestions and willing and wanting to talk with any of our community members regarding things they would like to see happening in our parks.

I am looking to also offer some new recreation programs into our community and I want to hear from you regarding what you would like to see offered. Please reach out to me if you would be interested in teaching, volunteering, coaching, or if you have any additional ideas for the Borough. I am excited about all these opportunities and I am even more excited to have the opportunities here in Zelienople.

Zelienople Community Park

SUMMER CONCERT AT THE PARK

Jeff Jimerson
Air Bourne

August 2, 2022
7:00 PM

Live at the
James A. Ayers Sr. Amphitheater

SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT AT THE PARK

Our summer movies are free to the public and made possible by a generous grant from the Ayers Foundation. Bring your family and friends for a fun movie at the Zelienople Community Park James A. Ayers, Sr. Amphitheater!

SPIDER-MAN NO WAY HOME
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022

ONWARD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022

Zelienople Area Library News



Children's fall programming kicks off the week of September 12th. This includes infant (wee ones), toddler, and preschool storytimes, Wacky Wednesday STEM programs,

Homeschool Hub, Lego Club, Block Party, and more. Our Young Adult Coordinator has started a **Teen Leadership Council**, which is similar to other public library's Teen Advisory Boards but ours has a little twist to it. In general, public library Teen Advisory Boards consist of teens who are asked to make recommendations of materials/resources that a public library should consider purchasing for addition to a young adult library collection. Zelig Library's **Teen Leadership Council** is asking teens to not only do this step of recommending resources, but to also develop teen programs on their own, from start to finish, which they can then add onto their resume as an example of a completed project being offered from a public library (working with our Young Adult programmer of course). If your teen would be interested in joining our **Teen Leadership Council** --as a way of meeting new friends, getting experience developing educational and/or recreational programs for teens, please contact the Library at 724-452-9330. Other regular teen programs include Anime Club and Dungeons & Dragon.

Our Children's Librarian has started a new program--ARC (Accessible Reading Club, which is a non-traditional book club for non-traditional readers. The group will explore different ways to encounter stories from audiobooks, ebooks, to large print books-- anything except traditional print! This group is designed for new readers, readers below level, and readers with disabilities. All readers will benefit from exposure to multiple ways to explore literacy and connecting them directly to those resources within the library's collection, assistive technology, and independent reading strategies and skills practice in a welcoming environment.

This Fall the Library kicks off a new series, *Local Showcase*, that will shine a spotlight on local residents who enjoy presenting and sharing information on a topic they know a lot about, in a public setting. Examples of speaking topics would include a hobby you have been involved with for a long time and know a lot about, or a research topic, or a wonderful trip, etc. We currently have three local residents who are excited about presenting: first is a local photographer, second is a gentleman who published a book on fly fishing, and third is a Jackson Township resident who published a book for children on organization skills. We are excited about this new series and hope you will stop by and join the discussion and conversations!

Zelienople's 1st Ever Bed Race Derby!



SATURDAY, AUGUST 13 @ 11 AM

- Arrive at the intersection of Spring St. & High St., registration at 9:30 am
 - Teams of 5 build a bed to compete
 - Open to anyone ages 12 and Up
 - Awards for Best Time & Best Decorated
- To contact the committee putting on this **FUN** event please email Tom Oliverio at tomoliverio@zoominternet.net or Adel Fatur at adelfatur@gmail.com
- All proceeds go to the Zelienople Area Public Library Capital Campaign (to build a small addition and parking lot on the property the Library owns located on the south side of the current building!)

The Library's annual arts & culture speaker series *Zelienople Library Presents* closes the 2022 lineup on November 10th at 7 pm with Mary Kuffner Hirt the author *The Mount Washington Transit Tunnel Disaster*. Learn about one of Pittsburgh's little known historical events, and on September 29th at 7 pm with SeussMania, presented by Karen Cramer. Our mission is "to afford people of all ages a community center dedicated to lifelong learning, enjoyment and discovery." Ask us how we can help you.

Harmony Fire District:

By Kevin Behun, President



Your Harmony Fire District has had a busy start to the year. We are setting the pace to run 500 fire/rescue calls this year. As our community continues to grow, so do the calls for assistance. We are committed to continuing our strong responses to protect you and our surrounding communities.

At the time of writing this article, the new station development is well under way. While not much visible work has been completed at the site of the new building in the recent months, the work behind the scenes has been enormous. This is hands down the biggest project we have ever undertaken and we are making sure to do it right. We are not cutting corners and we are not willing to waste money in the design or construction. This building, this new fire station, will be exactly what our community needs. Not more and not less. One important feature of the new station will be the ability to house volunteers 24 hours a day. Our ability to successfully respond to emergency calls and greatly impact outcomes, often comes down to how long it takes from the time we are dispatched until the time we arrive on scene. Having firefighters at the station is our best way to save 5-7 minutes per response. Over recent years we have had multiple structure fire calls where this time difference has saved considerable amounts of property. As modern construction continues to unfold around us, today's structure fires are burning faster meaning that these 5-7 minutes can be the difference between saving life and property or simply containing a fire from extending to other properties. For this reason, we are building a facility that encourages staffing whether it's touchdown offices for those who can work remotely or a kitchen and bunk space for others.

We have received strong support from our locally elected representatives all the way to those in Washington DC. Funding a project like this takes work. Our communities are among the fastest growing areas in the state. That statistic has helped



us gain some influence and understanding of the importance of this project. We said earlier we are building what we need and this building allows us to serve the larger community of tomorrow, while being the right size for today. Finding this balance and being able to explain this has helped us gain the backing of those at the county and state level to receive funding, as well as continuing to work towards federal funding to help offset total building costs.

Recently we hosted our open house event in conjunction with Harmony Boroughs Fireworks event. We were able to meet many local families who are longtime residents and others who are new to the area. We provided fire safety information, performed a vehicle extrication demonstration, and answered questions about who we are and what we do. We are looking forward to the day that our new station is built and when we will be able to open our doors to the community on Thursday nights and continue to interact with more of you.

We still need your help. We are always accepting applications for new membership. We have positions available for anyone, whether it's a senior member who aspires to become an interior firefighter or rescue technician, the working professional who has a desire to help guide the administrative side of our department, the high school student who wishes to learn some life skills and boost their college application, and everything in between. We would love the chance to talk with you. As always, you can reach out to us from our website www.harmonyfire22.org or any of our social media accounts: @harmonyfire22

We are excited for you to see what is next for us and we can't wait to share it with you.

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**"A Modern Place with
Old Fashioned Grace"**



Zelienople

Main Street in Zelienople
Displays its history.
The homes of pioneers are there
For all of us to see.

The quaintness of this little town
Is not its only claim.
It is progressive as it grows
And lives up to its name.

It bustles with excitement
It is "A Modern Place"
But not to be forgotten
It has "Old Fashioned Grace".

So take a trip on Route 19
Then stop and feel the glow
Of the greatest little burg there is:
It's my home town you know.

- Dolores Fruth

Reprinted with permission by the poet.

Introducing Zelienople's Historical Plaque Program

By Tom Nesbitt, Zelienople Historical Society



The Zelienople Borough
and the Zelienople
Historical Society (ZHS)
are sponsoring an
Historical plaque
program for the

historical homes and buildings in our town. A
plaque program was recommended by T&B
Planning in their 2020 Historical Preservation Plan
for Zelienople.

These are high quality bronze plaques made locally
by Franklin Bronze and will carry the official
Zelienople "Z" Logo. Current examples can be seen
at: The Strand Theater, Barber Dan's, 300 Walnut
Street, and 223 E. Beaver Street. ZHS will verify the
age of the structures, work with residents on
wording and track orders and payments. Make
checks payable to the Zelienople Historical Society.

To qualify, a structure must be 100 years old, or a
place of business must have functioned for 100
years. There are three styles of plaques, and the
costs include shipping and taxes. Tom Nesbitt at
ZHS is the primary contact at
zeliehistory@zoominternet.net

Oval Plaques are for residential homes. Costs for
commercial buildings may vary due to additional
wording. Delivery takes 2 or 3 months due to each
plaque being unique.

Pricing: 6x8 Oval \$250, 8x10 Oval \$275, 8x10
Square \$350-\$400, and 12x16 Special \$500-\$600